

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein. Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 7, 8 and 9 are independent claims.

Claims 1, 3-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The following rejection applies to independent claims 1, 7 and 9. In particular, claim 1, for example, recites the limitation "said current spatial grid" at line 20 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The Examiner is unclear if a "spatial grid (SG)" is the same as a "current spatial grid SG(t)".

In response, claim 1 has been amended to recite "A method of processing a sequence of digital images, intended to detect a grid (SG, RG) corresponding to blocking artifacts within said sequence of digital images using a circuit suitably programmed to perform the steps of... wherein said spatial-a grid (SG, RG) comprises sets of at least one block artifact within each row..."

Accordingly, the grid at line 20 is the same as the grid of line 2 of the claim. Independent claims 7-9 have been similarly amended. Support for these amendment can be found in the specification, at least on page 2, lines 11-28, page 2, line 34 – page 3, line

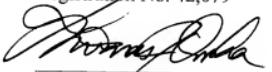
6; and the originally filed claim 2, which stated: "An image processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a grid (SG, RG) comprises sets of at least one block artifact and wherein the reference grid (RG) comprises an indicator (ind) associated with a set of at least one block artifact, an indicator of the current reference grid (RG(t)) being updated from the corresponding indicator of the preceding reference grid (RG(t-1)) and from the presence or absence of the set of at least one block artifact associated with said indicator in the current spatial grid (SG(t))."

With regard to the dependent claims 3-6 these claims ultimately depend from one of the independent claims, which have been shown to be allowable in view of the cited references. Accordingly, claims 3-6 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 31, 2010

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